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CURRENT PRODUCTION CAPACITIES OF SOVIET IRON AND STEEL PLANTS

The Magnitogorsk Combine, which according to Soviet claims is the largest metallurgical enterprise in the world, is located directly at the iron-ore base. The annual output of iron ore is said to be 8 million tons. During the mid-1940's, Magnitogorsk had 10 blast furnaces, 23 open-hearth furnaces, 13 rolling mills, and 8 coke-oven batteries with 69 coke ovens each. The blast furnaces are believed to have an average capacity of 1,180 cubic meters and a total productivity of 7.1 million tons of pig iron. In 1937, the rolling mills and open-hearth furnaces had an annual productivity of 2 million tons and 1.9 million tons, respectively.

Other iron and steel plants in the Urals are located in Nadezhdinsk [now Serov] Khalilovo-Orsk, Lys'va, Nizhniy Tagil and Zlatoust, to mention only a few of the most important ones. During the Fourth Five-Year Plan, a large rail-rolling mill was built in Nizhniy Tagil and a large thin-sheet mill for producing galvanized tinplate was built in Severskiy, near Sverdlovsk. The huge plant in Orsk-Khalilovo is specializing in the production of high-grade chrome-nickel steel. The largest plant in the USSR for the production of high-quality steel is still the Bakal Combine in Chelyabinsk.

The largest iron and steel plants of Central Siberia are located in Stalinsk. According to estimates for 1942, Kuznetsk Plant No 1 has a maximum capacity of 1.9 million tons of pig iron, 2.5 million tons of steel, and 2.1 million tons of rolled products. The plant produces primarily railroad materials. Kuznetsk Plant No 2 has a capacity of 1.1 million tons of pig iron, 1.2 million tons of steel, and 900,000 tons of rolled products; its products are delivered mainly to mining enterprises and chemical plants, as well as other industrial enterprises.

The newly founded iron and steel enterprise of Kazakhstan has its main plant in Temir-Tau and auxiliary shops in Aktyubinsk. This plant already has several blast furnaces and rolling mills, and it is to supply all the iron and steel required by Kazakhstan and the other Central Asian republics.

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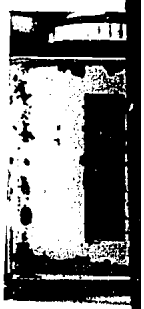

In Uzbekistan, the plant in Begovat was operating 4 blast furnaces, 15 open-hearth furnaces, 9 rolling mills, and 6 coke-oven batteries in 1946.

In East Siberia and the Far East, the largest operating enterprise is the "Amurstal'" Plant in Komsomol'sk. It has at least two blast furnaces, four open-hearth furnaces, and a number of rolling mills and iron foundries. The yearly capacity of this plant is estimated at 100,000 tons of steel and rolled products; however, this output has not yet been reached. The yearly production of pig iron is said to be 400,000 tons.

The second largest plant in the east is the Petrovsk-Zabaykal'skiy Metallurgical Plant, which is still the only steel plant in the Transbaykal. It has two blast furnaces, four open-hearth furnaces, a rolling shop, and a coking plant. Its yearly capacity is estimated at 60,700 tons of steel and 65,000 tons of rolled products. Coal is obtained from the Cheremkhovo region, west of Lake Baykal, and iron ore is supplied from the Balyaga iron deposits.

An iron and steel plant with a yearly capacity of 50,000 tons of rolled products is operating in Irkutsk. The iron and steel plants in the Cheremkhovo area, which are to operate on ore from Bratsk and Sosnovyy-Bayts, are apparently still under construction.

Very little is known on the development of the Chimkan industrial region. The iron and steed output of this area, as well as that of Komsomol'sk, should help to satisfy local iron and steel requirements in the Far East. The same purpose will be served by another iron and steel plant under construction in the Suchan area, near Vladivostok and the coast of the Sea of Japan; this plant may have been completed by now. The main purpose of this enterprise will apparently be to supply rolled-steel products for the Far East naval forces and merchant marine. Even these incomplete data prove that the iron and steel industry in East Siberia, in the Irkutsk industrial area, in Transbaykal, in the Bureya region, and in Suchan and Komsomol'sk, is gradually developing. According to the plans of Soviet economy, five economically independent regions, supplying their own raw materials, electric power, and auxiliary materials, are to be created in these locations

Finally, the large iron and steel plant in Rustavi, in the Transcaucasus, has begun to operate and is to reach its full capacity in 1950. Its operation will play a definite part in the further industrialization of the Transcaucasian region.

Despite a considerable increase in the iron and steel output during the past 10 years, the steel production of 25.4 million tons planned for 1950 is still very low, when compared with the enormous requirements of the Soviet metalworking industries, especially the armaments industry.

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